

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

June 14, 2020



Introduction

Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism, we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

We gather each week to worship and pray on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples. For thousands of years they have walked on the land and paddled the waters of the Salish Sea. We are grateful to the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations for their stewardship of these lands and adjoining waters throughout the ages.

Opening Dialogue

O Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Alleluia.

Morning Psalms of Praise

Antiphon: Give Glory to God, our light and our Life.

Oh, come, let us worship and praise.

Psalm 95

Refrain: **Come let us sing to the Lord:
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

1. Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms. For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods. **Refrain**
2. In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours. The sea is yours for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land. **Refrain**
3. Come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For the Lord is our God and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. **Refrain**

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!

Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.

**Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong;
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;
give thanks and bless God's holy name.

**Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Antiphon: Give Glory to God, our light and our Life.
Oh, come, let us worship and praise.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

The Readings

Romans 5:1-8

Larry Deneff

⁵ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we ³boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God

The Gospel: Matthew 9:36 – 10:8

Ursula Adler

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁵Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the

laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

¹⁰ Then Jesus^(a) summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection **Rev. Susan Johnson, National Bishop,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada**

Grace to you and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is a real joy to be able to worship with you in this way today. This time of pandemic is, and has been, very challenging and tiring for all of us. Your bishops wanted to make sure that rostered leaders could take their vacations for much needed rest and that congregations would still be able to gather in worship. That is why we, and the synodical assistant to the bishops, are providing these sermons for use today through the middle of September. Because the harvest is plentiful but the workers are getting exhausted!

In our Gospel lesson today we hear that Jesus has compassion on the crowds that were following him. I hope that during this time of pandemic you have felt Jesus close to you and having great compassion for you and for all God’s children who are struggling now with the pandemic, with racism and police brutality, with homelessness, with hunger, with war and displacement, with loneliness and isolation and countless other needs.

Jesus continues to come to each and every one of us and speaks to us a message of hope, of love, of grace and of peace.

But that is not all Jesus says to us.

Jesus is still calling us, each and every one of us, to go out into the harvest to proclaim the good news in word and in deed. And please hear me now, Jesus is not just speaking to pastors. NO! This is a call to each of us who want to be followers of Jesus.

I know that some of you may be already starting to cringe. And it gets worse. Jesus warns us before we go that it is not going to be easy. In fact, it may be very hard.

However, let's remember that the realities of first century Palestine, living under Roman occupation and oppression, and our 21st century Canadian context are very different. Granted there are some worries and dangers now as provinces are opening up. Although we are now painfully aware that Black, Indigenous and other people of colour face more dangers. We all still need to take COVID-19 very seriously as we head out into the harvest.

So today, Jesus would not warn us about the possibilities of flogging or being dragged before governors and kings. Jesus might instead tell us to wear masks, wash our hands frequently, keep 2 meters apart, and to gather in groups of 25 people indoors and 50 outdoors as long as there is physical distancing. Or at least that is what he might say in Manitoba.

Our current reality is that we have learned during this pandemic time that there are people hungry for hearing the good news. I have heard stories across our church of inactive members returning to participate in online worship, of total strangers joining in worship, of larger attendances online than there were in person. I have also heard about amazing generosity both in terms of financial donations and in people continuing to be willing to contact isolated members, to provide worship leadership, to continue to run feeding and outreach programs within guidelines for safety and on and on.

We have proved in a crisis that we can be creative and responsive to God's call. We are reaching out and sharing God's good news in ways that we have never imagined and with effects like we have never experienced. Let's face it, we have been struggling for a long time about how to take evangelism seriously in this time and place. And I remind you that evangelism, sharing the good news, is a part of discipleship to which we are all called. Each and every one of us.

My mom and I have been reading *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We are trying a COVID-19 book club via Facetime. In his chapter on ministry, Bonhoeffer talks about evangelism as the ministry of proclaiming, one of the ministries that we are all called to take part in. For those of you who haven't

read the book, or who haven't read it for a while, the other ministries Bonhoeffer calls us to are holding one's tongue, meekness, listening, helpfulness, bearing, and authority.

Bonhoeffer acknowledges our difficulty. He writes "Added to the fear of one's responsibility to speak there is the fear of the other person. What a difficult thing it often is to utter the name of Jesus Christ in the presence even of a brother! Who dares to force himself upon his neighbour?" I know it's difficult and I know it's uncomfortable. But Bonhoeffer goes on to remind us it is our right and our responsibility to do so.

What I'm trying to say it that this topsy-turvy time we have been living through has shown us that people are hungry for God's good news of hope, love, grace, and peace. People are yearning to know that Jesus has compassion for them in their lives.

I'm asking you, I'm pleading with you, let us help each other to learn how to go out into the harvest so that we are ready when our cities and provinces open up to listen to the needs and the yearning and the opportunities to share a word of good news and invite people to come and see. To come and worship. To know the compassion of Jesus.

God bless and strengthen each and every one of you as we all continue to deepen our discipleship in answer to God's call. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: ELW 798 Will You Come and Follow Me (v. 1,2,5)

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Intercessions

Candace Storm

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and for all of God's creation.....

God of community, you form us as your church. Even in this time of isolation, we celebrate the presence of your Spirit among us. Be with all congregations as they discern how to safely resume face-to-face worship in the near future. We pray for our pastor Vida and for all pastors. We pray for our bishops Greg and Susan. Give them wisdom and boldness. As your community, may we proclaim your kingdom of justice, compassion, and peace, and live it out in our lives.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Madeleine Storm

We pray for those who are fearful about easing the restrictions on gatherings under which we have been operating. We pray for students and families as they consider online learning and partial return to classes. Give them reassurance, peace and hope.

We pray for medical staff, nurses, physicians, care attendants, technicians, and cleaners. Sustain them in their weariness and bless their work. Keep them safe.

We pray for those who are ill. Fill them with your healing power.

We pray for all saddened by the loss of physical contacts with friends and family. For those who grieve the loss of things as they were. Help them to move forward in your love and in the care of this community.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Thommy and Geof Hutson

God of care, open our eyes to see and attend to all who face oppression and suffering. Console, heal, and nourish all in need.

We pray for those who grieve and those who suffer the brokenness of communities afflicted with deeply engrained systemic racism. Grant that the cries of pain and anger around the world may be heard, that deep-seated attitudes that lead to discrimination and marginalization of people may be altered. We pray for those who demonstrate for justice, and for those who cry out for compassion.

We pray for those entrusted to maintain order for the common good – give them wisdom, compassion, and patience. Restrain the hand of all who would exploit the pain and grief for their own purposes.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Marianne Cross

We pray for all communities, that we may support each other in this time of challenge, and that we may repent of attitudes and actions that have led to racism and marginalization of minorities. We pray especially for First Nations peoples, that reconciliation may be a reality. May we repent of the sins of the past, and move forward to your future of justice, compassion, and peace.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Herb Storm

We pray for the poor, the under-employed and the unemployed. We pray for those suffering loss of income and those seeking work. We pray for the destitute, for the disabled, for the mentally ill, for the addicted and the alienated. We pray for those who help them. We pray for workers at shelters, food banks, and all the organizations that aid those in need. Give us eyes to see the need and pain of others, and give us hearts of compassion and generosity.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

LaDonna Miller

We pray for our government, and for leaders in our cities, province, and nation. We pray especially for public health officers that they may be diligent in study and may speak the truth to us all. We pray for our prime minister and for our parliament, for our premier and legislature. Give them wisdom and courage to act for the good of all.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bob Koepke

God of compassion, you comfort us in our grief with the promise of the resurrection. We give you thanks for the saints of all time and in our lives, especially those we name before you.....

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Candace Storm

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Sending Hymn ELW 669 Rise Up Saints of God (v.1,2,5)

Rise up, O Saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.

Speak out, O Saints of God, despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace, the word of hope proclaim.

Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;
and, quickened by the Spirit's power, rise up, O saints of God!

Benediction

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant us to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that
we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace (+) bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

Postlude Excerpt from Bach-Busoni, Chaconne in D minor **Sonja Koruga**

Thank you to Jim Berger, Lois Grierson, Sonja Koruga, and Shelley Meglaughlin for producing this week's online service and bulletin, as well as to Larry Deneff, Ursula Adler, Candace Storm, Madeleine Storm, Geoff and Thommy Hutson, Marianne Cross, Herb Storm, LaDonna Miller, Bob Koepke, and Shelly Meglaughlin for reading. Thanks also are extended to Bishop Susan Johnson for the Reflection she has shared. A special shout out to Jason Assam for doing all the technical work required to put out our weekly online worship services: Thanks, Jason!

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Announcements

- Pastor Vida has been away for the past 2 weeks and will back at work on June 17. If you need something in the meantime, you can contact Shelley in the office or on her cell: 604-842-4513.
- **June 21 - Indigenous Peoples' Day:** We have confirmed with **Mary Ellen Kelm**, Canada Research Chair in the Department of History at SFU (and a former member of Gloria Dei) for a Zoom Presentation on the **Indian Act** for 1:30PM. It will be a good learning event for all of us. Register by emailing Pastor Vida at pastorgd@shaw.ca; registration is limited to 25 participants.



Don't forget to 'Like' our page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GDLCNV to stay up to date on everything that is happening.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

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Church office is open Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 1:30pm

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Church Council Chair: Candace Storm

Vice Chair: Ken Parkinson

Church Council Members: Shelley Meglaughlin, Maureen Kerfoot,
Gail Berger, Kathleen Stoll